

**Schuylkill River Park efforts** – CCRA Green supported the Schuylkill River Park Arboretum by organizing the planting of nine trees in the park. In addition, we facilitated the planting of an extensive native pollinator garden in the park on the fall Love Your Park Day. The garden was the result of a collaboration between our committee and The Philadelphia School's Green and Healthy committee which designed the space, sourced the plants, and oversaw the planting. One significant challenge was ensuring that the new plants received sufficient water in the weeks following planting. An extension to the park's irrigation system will meet the future needs of the new garden, but, because the City turned off the water supply, it could not be used immediately after planting. Thus, water had to be carried from a nearby home in a very labor-intensive process.

**Riparian planting** – Last spring CCRA Green partnered with Penn State Extension Service and Schuylkill River Development Corporation to plant 60 shrubs and trees along the riverbank adjacent to Center City. The plants were chosen for their ability to support native habitat and improve water quality. Several dedicated caretakers kept the plants watered and weeded through exceptionally dry spells. Sadly, many of the plants were destroyed over the summer by Schuylkill Banks landscapers. To protect the remaining plants, bi-lingual signage has been developed to identify plants that should not be mowed or weed-whacked.

**Street tree plantings** – CCRA Green PHS Tree Tenders added 39 trees to our neighborhood canopy in the spring and fall street tree planting events. Volunteer caretakers adopted several of them and kept them thriving through the hot summer. Global Shapers, a group of under-30 volunteers provided invaluable help on planting days. We are in the process of developing ways to more broadly involve the group in our work.

**E-recycling and shredding event** – In November, CCRA Green partnered with Rep. Ben Waxman and the Greenfield School to host a shredding and e-recycling event that was open to the entire Center City West community. The word got out through the CCRA e-newsletter and social media, robo-calls, community bulletin boards and word of mouth, resulting in a tremendous turnout! Folks gathered accumulated sensitive documents and correspondence and brought them for shredding, along with specific electronics and equipment that were all then disposed of in a responsible and sustainable way. A representative from TerraCycle was also on hand

to answer questions and provide information on additional recycling programs available. A repeat event is planned for next fall.

**Storm drain marking** – CCRA Green partnered with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary to mark storm drains in our neighborhood.

Volunteers accepted nine kits, each with 15 markers, to post near storm drains. Volunteers were recruited via the CCRA e-newsletter and from a list of previous participants, but additional volunteers were needed.

Moreover, the hot and wet weather posed a challenge, because the markers can only be adhered in dry, moderate weather. Next year we will work to develop better outreach for volunteers.

Next year the Green Committee plans to continue these initiatives while seeking new ones. We also welcome new committee members who would actively contribute their time and energy to carry out our mission of protecting and enhancing our neighborhood's natural environment.